

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In an apparatus for treating cytological or histological specimens of a type having a plurality of conventional processing stations and a transport device for delivering
5 said specimens into and out of said plurality of processing stations, the improvement comprising:

at least one running-water station having an inflow and an outflow is provided as a processing station.
- 10 2. The improvement as defined in Claim 1, wherein said inflow is a regulated inflow.
3. The improvement as defined in Claim 1, wherein said running-water station comprises a pan and a container inserted into said pan.
- 15 4. The improvement as defined in Claim 3, wherein said container of said running-water station is embodied similarly to containers of said plurality of processing stations.
5. The improvement as defined in Claim 3, further comprising feet for supporting said
20 pan.
6. The improvement as defined in Claims 3, wherein said pan has a holding device for the insertion of several containers.
- 25 7. The improvement as defined in Claim 6, wherein said holding device comprises a pair of spaced bars between which said containers can be supported in a row.

8. The improvement as defined in Claim 6, wherein each of said containers is connected to a water supply system and has an overflow.
9. The improvement as defined in Claim 8, wherein said overflow from each individual container communicates in collected fashion with said pan.
10. The improvement as defined in Claim 8, wherein each of said containers includes a connector fitting for coupling said water supply system thereto.
11. The improvement as defined in Claim 10, further comprising a connector rail, wherein said connector fittings are associated with said connector rail and said connector rail serves for emplacement of said containers.
12. The improvement as defined in Claim 11, wherein a plurality of connector rails are provided in said pan.
13. The improvement as defined in Claim 11, wherein said connector rail has for each said container a connector opening into which said connector fitting of said container is insertable.
14. The improvement as defined in Claim 13, wherein said connector openings of said connector rail are supplied with water by way of a plurality of respective valves.
15. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein said plurality of valves are solenoid valves.

16. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein said plurality of valves are 3/2-way valves for enabling both filling and emptying of said containers by way of said plurality of valves.
- 5 17. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein one of said plurality of valves has an inflow separate from an inflow leading to others of said plurality of valves.
18. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein more than one of said plurality of valves share a common inflow and a common outflow.
- 10 19. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, further comprising a valve rail into which said plurality of valves are combined.
20. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, further comprising a plurality of fluid lines for connecting said plurality of valves to respective the connector openings for flow communication.
- 15 21. The improvement as defined in Claim 20, wherein said fluid lines are arranged to run below said pan.
22. The improvement as defined in Claim 3, wherein said pan includes an outflow connected to an outlet line.
23. The improvement as defined in Claim 14, further comprising a sensor arranged to detect the fill level in the pan is provided in the pan.
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24. The improvement as defined in Claim 23, wherein said sensor is connected to said plurality of valves, whereupon detection of a defined fill level said plurality of valves are actuated so that water infeed is shut off.
- 5 25. A processing station for use in an automatic satiner for treating objects, in particular cytological or histological specimens, comprising:
a running-water station having at least one inflow and an outflow.
26. The processing station according to claim 25, wherein said inflow is automatically regulated.

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